

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



*A Publication Concerned With
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

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Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on Club activities.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

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Welcome New Members

Ottawa Area

Caroline Bissonnette & Family

Mark Davidson

Michael D'eon

Lese Ferguson

Susan Fillman

Marilyn G. Glenn

Beverly A. Hellman

W. Mooney

Marshall Perrin & Family

Elizabeth Powles

Valerie Proctor & Family

Linda Rombough & Family

Eric Saumur & Family

René Séguin & Family

Janice Weightman

Amber Westfall & Family

Donald Wigle & Family

Gatineau Area

Nathalie Julien & Family

Jim Reil & Family

Booth Stares

United States

Dreux Watermolen

Henry Steger

Chair, Membership Committee

August 2012

President's Perspective

Fall 2012

The Conservation Challenge

Since January 2012, the Club has not had a Conservation Committee.

We still recognize the importance of conservation and have not abandoned the field. We are just doing things a bit differently than before. This change was forced on us when we could not find a chair for the conservation committee after Ken Young took over the role of Treasurer.



At the same time, some in the Club were already questioning the effectiveness of attending meetings, reviewing documents and submitting comments to governments (that were usually ignored) on local environmental issues. Politicians have become very good at using words that sound good but when examined closely are vague or meaningless. The recent federal and provincial budgets were particularly discouraging as governments tried to bully through measures that would seriously weaken past gains.

So what are we doing? What else should we/could we do? We are not a radical organization. Big attention-getting gestures are not our style.

Council recognized that many members of the Club are interested in conservation issues but do not necessarily wish to be a member of a standing committee. As a result, a Google Group was formed that allows anyone in the group to raise an issue and others in the group to get involved in the discussion if they wish. You are welcome to join if you are not already (<https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en&fromgroups#!forum/ofnc-conservation>). Once there, you should see a button labelled "Apply to join group." Those who feel strongly about an issue can take the lead in a course of action. This allows the Club to stay involved on key issues with members spending time and effort only on those topics they consider worthwhile.

Another way of considering developments or issues is through presentation/discussion meetings at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden meeting space (see page 167 of this issue). One was on the Boreal Forest agreement and another is scheduled for the

Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee (October 3). Again, this is a means for interested members to get more in-depth information on an issue on an *ad hoc* basis.

On urgent issues, where support is needed quickly, we are now sending emails to members alerting them to a need to take action. If you want to be notified of these then you must provide your email to the membership chair, Henry Steger at hsteger@bell.net. These emails are usually further supported by more information on our website. The Bulletin Board on the left side of the website can link you to a wide variety of current topics.

The more traditional tools of letters and petitions are certainly used, often to ensure that our views are on the record. One recent example was the issue of requesting a ban on the hunting of Snapping Turtles in Ontario. The summer *T&L* has an excellent article by Pauline Catling on the threats to Blandings Turtles in Ontario; threats that also impact snappers.

The same issue of *T&L* also contains an excellent article by Paul Catling *et al.* on Ostrander Point and the potential impact of wind turbines. It ends with a list of what you can do. Raising awareness of such important issues is a key component of the Club's conservation role and our publications are tools available to us. If an issue concerns you then please write it up for *T&L*.

Another critical aspect of conservation is knowing what needs protection and setting baselines for the future. The Club has always been an active player in the many BioBlitzes that are held for nearby areas. In the April 2011 *T&L*, Christine Hanrahan provides a thorough description of a series of BioBlitzes in the Larose Forest southeast of Ottawa. She has also more recently helped the Mississippi-Madawaska Land Trust Conservancy with their BioBlitz of the High Lonesome property near Arnprior. You can't underestimate the importance of documenting the biodiversity of an area as a tool to defend that land. Thank you Christine and the other BioBlitzers!!

Sometimes conservation is best achieved by protecting the land through ownership. In that regard your Club has played a major role in the eastern Ontario region. Most of you are familiar with the Alfred Bog and the pivotal role of the OFNC in its preservation. We have also provided financial support to the Nature Conservancy to help them purchase land in the Frontenac Arch north of Kingston and in the Wolf Grove area of Arnprior.

In a perfect world the OFNC would have an active and informed Conservation Committee keeping an ear to the ground and an eye on the horizon on behalf of us all. Without one we can still fulfill our conservation role, albeit with more onus on all of us, individually and collectively. As with many things in life, there are several ways of achieving a desired goal.

Ann MacKenzie
annmackenzie@rogers.com

Enid Frankton (1924-2012)

Dan Brunton



When the OFNC lost Enid Frankton (née Patterson) this spring (14 May) we lost more than our third longest-serving member. We lost a stalwart supporter, contributor and friend. Enid joined the Club in 1948, shortly after marrying the late Clarence Frankton, himself an important figure in OFNC history and an Honorary Member (*The Canadian Field-Naturalist* 117:481-486 (2003)). Intrepid field naturalists to the core, together they made important conservation contributions through careful documentation of natural history observations of many areas in eastern Ontario and western Quebec. The Greenbelt, South March Highlands, Britannia and Gatineau Park benefited in particular.

Beyond her valuable contributions in the field, however, Enid served on the Council of the OFNC and as both a member and Chair of the Awards Committee. Under her stewardship in the 1990s the Awards program was reinvigorated and expanded to cover the scope we presently employ. Beyond the considerable insight, research and time she put into this task, she employed her calligraphy skills to beautifully inscribe OFNC Awards certificates for a number of years.

In her heart Enid was, first and foremost, a teacher. She was also one professionally. After a brief career as a botanical technician and then years as a full-time mom, she went back to university to earn a Masters degree in education. She worked especially with handicapped children, retiring as the acclaimed principal of Ottawa's first public school dedicated to special needs kids. The teacher's soul was always evident in her curiosity, willingness to share knowledge, extraordinary listening skills and delight in the learning achievement of others.

Upon learning of Enid's death, Christine Hanrahan (pers. comm.) perfectly summed up a large part of her personality and willingness to contribute: "*Enid was a warm, wise and wonderful person. In the early days of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden she tirelessly led walks there when we had our open houses . . . and she sometimes led two or three in succession.*" She was always a doer and jumped right in, whether attending Club events and outings or participating for many years in the Britannia sector of Christmas Bird Counts—whatever it was that expanded our knowledge and appreciation of the natural world. And entirely consistent with her quiet but determined commitment to those things, she even asked that donations to the Nature Conservancy of Canada be made in lieu of commemorative flowers. Now that was a *real* commitment for someone who admired flowers as much as she!

Enid left a deep impression upon all of us who were touched by her good works, generosity and intelligence. While we take inspiration from her many achievements, there is no doubt that her wonderful humour, inquisitive nature and insightful observations are sorely missed.

Together for birds and people: building a sustainable future

Ian J. Davidson¹

BirdLife International is the world's leading authority on birds and nature conservation and the largest global partnership of local to global NGOs. With over 10 million members and supporters and 7,155 staff, BirdLife International achieves and delivers practical approaches to conservation throughout the world, for the benefit of nature and people. BirdLife applies evidence-based science, including data collected by citizen scientists and naturalist clubs like the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, to inform conservation action on the ground and influence business and government decision-makers.

Every four years, the BirdLife Partnership comes together to take stock, share its experiences, look to the future and celebrate its successes. The next BirdLife World Congress will be held 17-22 June 2013 at the Ottawa Convention Centre in Canada. It will be hosted by Nature Canada and Bird Studies Canada (BirdLife Partners in Canada). The congress will provide a unique opportunity to bring together conservation leaders from more than 120 countries around the world to discuss the future direction of BirdLife's work. The congress will also be an occasion to celebrate the 90th anniversary of BirdLife International, to launch BirdLife's New 2020 Vision and to reflect on the Partnership's many achievements.

"This gathering of our partnership brings together the people who make conservation happen, not just for nature but for the human communities that depend on it. The atmosphere will be energizing, challenging and inspiring," said Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado of Japan, BirdLife Honorary President.

The congress will include regional and global partnership meetings with discussions on governance and business, a series of thematic sessions focusing on a wide range of topics such as preventing extinctions, key biodiversity areas, forests of hope and saving our oceans, and to finish with, a celebration of BirdLife's 90th anniversary.

¹ Executive Director, Nature Canada

During the 6-day congress, over 500 people are anticipated to participate. Nature Canada and Bird Studies Canada seek volunteers to help coordinate both on-site and off-site activities during the congress period. Volunteers are needed to help with registration, information booths, set-up for the International Fair, gala events, local bird watching opportunities, support during thematic sessions, booths, among other logistical activities. The OFNC will be reaching out to its membership for people interested in helping with this event, and the Club's point-of-contact is Rémy Poulin, OFNCandNatureCanada@gmail.com. Interested volunteers can also contact Nature Canada via email srobertson@naturecanada.ca or directly through Sue Robertson at (613) 526-3447 extension 500. Look for updates and information in future issues of *T&L* as we count down to June.

Editor's Note: More information about Birdlife International may be found at www.birdlife.org.



Meeting of IBA in Buenos Aires Argentina in 2008.

Past Musings: Botanizing on Haycock Island

Jack Gillett

Do you own a boat or canoe? If you do, you might find it profitable to take it down to Shirleys Bay where there is an excellent place to launch it and take a trip across the bay to Haycock Island. It is the first of the two islands you come to; the other is Chartrand Island. On the other side of it is Innis Point. Late in the season when the river is low, the two islands are almost connected by a sand spit. Haycock Island is about 500 yards long. At the east end is an outcrop of limestone with a large pile of glacial boulders and the rest of it is mostly sand.

I know the Connaught Rifle Range is nearby and you may be concerned about stopping a stray bullet. Let me assure you that the island is completely outside the border of the range, which is clearly marked with red markers. So, I think that you can relax and wander about the island without danger. However, there are two other minor dangers: there is considerable Poison ivy and if you don't care for water snakes you may be alarmed by the colony of them at the extreme east end; they sun themselves on the rocks by the dozens. On the other hand, you may find these fellows more interesting than the rest of the place. But few dangers will stop a naturalist. You will find the island aesthetically beautiful and botanically rewarding. A number of years ago, I made a survey of the island to record what grew there. The trees include Trembling Aspen, cottonwood (on both sides of the bay), Silver Maple, hawthorn, Shining and Heart-leaved Willows, Red and Mossycup Oaks, White Ash—a whole grove of it—Paper Birch, elm and juneberry. Among the shrubs is the dwarf beach plum, three species of dogwood, two viburnums, including *V. rafinesquianum* which is found all over the Burnt Lands and Harwood Plains. The vines—wild grape, bittersweet, climbing honeysuckle—are draped all over the trees and shrubs giving the island a “deserted” quality.

The herbs are equally interesting, but especially so if you recognize the significance of the occurrence of each one with respect to total range. For example, there are two beard grasses which are found only along the Ottawa in this area. They indicate a post-pleistocene migration route for some species along the Ottawa connecting up through northern reaches to the Great Lakes and thence to the western plains.

At the western end of Haycock Island is a bay with a rich aquatic flora. It is very peaceful there. The water is too shallow and there are too many boulders for noisy motor boats. If you are too hot, you can swim on the south shore; the water is great. If you want to sun, there is a small beach, but watch the *Xanthium* burs.

I found 82 species of plants there on one July afternoon. It might be interesting to visit at other seasons and to add a few more. If you do, let me know what they are. To help you out, here is my list.

<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>
<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>
<i>Alnus rugosa</i>	<i>Hypericum ellipticum</i>
<i>Amelanchier spicata</i>	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
<i>Amphicarpaea bracteata</i>	<i>Iris versicolor</i>
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	<i>Juncus alpinoarticulatus</i>
<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	<i>Juncus filiformis</i>
<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	<i>Juncus nodosus</i>
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>
<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	<i>Lobelia kalmii</i>
<i>Carex aurea</i>	<i>Lonicera dioica</i>
<i>Carex lenticularis</i>	<i>Lycopus americanus</i>
<i>Carex pellita</i>	<i>Lycopus uniflorus</i>
<i>Carex viridula</i>	<i>Lysimachia ciliata</i>
<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	<i>Lysimachia terrestris</i>
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
<i>Cornus rugosa</i>	<i>Melilotus albus</i>
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	<i>Mentha arvensis</i>
<i>Crataegus chrysocarpa</i>	<i>Myrica gale</i>
<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	<i>Nuphar variegata</i>
<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	<i>Panicum lanuginosum</i>
<i>Erigeron strigosus</i>	<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>
<i>Eriocaulon septangulare</i>	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	<i>Poa palustris</i>
<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i>	<i>Polygonatum pubescens</i>

Pontederia cordata	Schizachium condensatum
Populus deltoides	Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani
Populus tremuloides	Silene vulgaris
Prunella vulgaris	Sisyrinchium montanum
Prunus pumila	Smilax herbacea
Quercus macrocarpa	Spiraea alba
Quercus rubra	Tilia americana
Ranunculus reptans	Utricularia vulgaris
Rubus sp.	Verbascum thapsus
Sagittaria graminea	Viburnum lentago
Salix lucida	Viburnum rafinesquianum
Salix rigida	Xanthium sp.

Now isn't that an interesting flora? Have a good time.

Editor's note: This article was originally published as part of the Explorer's Corner series in a 1968 issue of *T&L*. Some of the names of the plants have been changed to reflect its current taxonomic status. The reference used was Integrated Taxonomic Information System.

The author challenged members to find other species. Were others found? I do not know. I thought it would be interesting to put forth the challenge again and see what happens. Has the flora changed in the last 40 years? I'm sure Jack would also be interested.

Call for Nominations for OFNC Awards

The Awards Committee

It is time to think about and consider those OFNC members (and, in two cases, even non-members) who, by virtue of their special efforts and talents, are deserving of special recognition. The Club has seven awards. They are:

Honorary Membership - Presented in recognition of outstanding contributions by a member, or non-member, to Canadian natural history or to the successful operation of the Club.

Member of the Year Award - In recognition of the member judged to have contributed the most to the Club in the previous year.

George McGee Service Award - In recognition of a member or members who has (have) contributed significantly to the smooth running of the Club over several years.

Conservation Award (OFNC members) - In recognition of an outstanding contribution by a member (or group of members) in the cause of natural history conservation in the Ottawa Valley, with particular emphasis on activities within the Ottawa District (The Ottawa District is the area within 50 km of the Peace Tower in Ottawa).

Conservation Award (Non-members) - In recognition of an outstanding contribution by a non-member (or group of non-members) in the cause of natural history conservation in the Ottawa Valley, with particular emphasis on activities within the Ottawa District.

Anne Hanes Natural History Award - In recognition of a member who, through independent study or investigation, has made a worthwhile contribution to our knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural history of the Ottawa Valley.

Mary Stuart Education Award - For members, non-members, or organizations, in recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of natural history education in the Ottawa Region. Potential recipients would include museum personnel (both professional and volunteer), biology teachers, talented and dedicated field trip leaders, authors popularizing local natural history, and other educators of children or adults.

If you would like to nominate someone for an award, you can complete the nomination form found on the website (www.ofnc.ca/awards.php) and return the

form to the Chair of the Awards Committee at ofnc@ofnc.ca. Nominate as many individuals as you like. If necessary, the Awards Committee will seek out more information on individuals nominated.

The deadline for submissions is December 31.

Nature in the Kawarthas

K. McLachlan Hamilton

Some time ago, I received this book in the mail. At the time it had been put aside because other things were more pressing. Once I found the time to sit down with it, I quickly realized what a gem it really was.

Nature in the Kawarthas is a series of “articles” compiled into a single volume. It covers virtually all aspects of the region, from geology to natural history to conservation. With 190 pages and 29 chapters, each chapter is short and usually written by a different author. If I counted correctly, 20 people are responsible for the text. This is not a criticism, however, as each chapter is a single entity, thus allowing the reader to pick it up and read one or several pieces at any time. Most of the chapters cover the specific flora and fauna of the region, but there are several that discuss the different ecosystems and the one describing its geological history.

The aim of the book was to expose the novice to nature. The text does cover the basic information, but not in a too simplistic way. Alvars are explained, so are vernal pools and the difference between swamps, bogs and fens—something I learned ages ago, but through time forgot the specifics. There were other bits of information that were new to me, such as the colour variations in the White and Red Trillium.

The illustrations, all 237 of them, are spectacular. Almost all of them are taken in their natural habitats, no easy feat in my opinion. Most notable are the Barred Owl series, the Deer Mouse, and the fish captured while underwater. I was curious about how they took these underwater images. They were so clear (particularly the Muskellunge), but I did not see any information in the book as to how the images were taken.

A strong conservation theme runs throughout. It was intentional, as there is a chapter specifically addressing conservation, one dedicated to aquatic invasive alien species, and it certainly was on the minds of several of the authors. In fact, in the introduction there is a section describing the species at risk terms and its legislation. In some chapters the status of some species are mentioned (i.e. COSEWIC's designation of "species of special concern" for the Snapping Turtle). As the Chair of the Book Committee states in the introduction: "We hope that you find the book informative and that it will prompt you to think about your own impact and involvement with nature."

Towards the end of the book there is a list of common names with their associated scientific ones. I am not sure if this is a list of organisms featured in the book or if it is a list of species found in the region. If it is the latter, then the list is incomplete. I realize a complete list would be extremely lengthy (and like all species lists, would never be complete), but my concern is that it may give the reader a false impression of what occurs in the region, particularly if someone uses it as a checklist. Also, I happened to spot a few errors. *Cordyceps subsessilis* is not a beetle, the *Nymphalis vaualbum* does not contain a hyphen (it reads *Nymphalis vau-album* in the list) and the term "sp." should not be italicized. These things happen.

I think the section I found to be the most intriguing is the Places to Go. This section describes 24 areas where people may visit, many of which were mentioned in the previous chapters. Each entry has a concise, but detailed description of the area, pointing out its most unique features. For instance, the description of the Ken Reid Conservation Area states "There is an excellent floating boardwalk that passes through provincially significant wetlands. . . . From the boardwalk there is a chance to see Red-bellied Snakes, Snapping Turtles and Leopard Frogs as well as many emergent flowering water plants. . . . The park is a popular place for birders. Many wildflowers are to be seen in season. . . ." Each area also includes directions to the site as well as symbols telling you what is available (hiking, wheelchair access, camping facilities, canoeing etc.).

For anyone who is unsure of the area, the Kawartha Region is in southeastern Ontario. It includes a chain of 14 lakes that link the Trent Waterway system. This book includes the towns of Rosedale and Apsley to the north, Lindsey to the east, Havelock to the west, and just south of Rice Lake.

The book is a product of the Peterborough Field Naturalists with support from the Peterborough County Stewardship Council, Stony Lake Heritage Foundation and Camp Kawartha. It was published by Dundurn, Toronto and sells for \$32.99. ISBN 978-1-4597-0115-1.

Review of Peterson Field Guide to Moths of Northeastern North America

B.C. Schmidt

D. Beadle and S. Leckie; Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, NY. \$29.00

The release of a new book on moths in the Peterson Field Guide series caught much of the "moth-o-phile" community by surprise, simply because our moth fauna is vast, and to prepare a good-quality guide takes a considerable amount of time and dedicated effort. But David Beadle and Seabrooke Leckie have managed this task, rather impressively. By necessity, the guide focuses on a specific region (northeastern North America), with emphasis on a subset of the fauna, namely those moths most likely to catch people's eye—large, common or conspicuous. The geographic coverage includes southern Ontario and Quebec, south of about 49°, to the southern extent of Missouri, Kentucky and Virginia, and west to the edge of the Great Plains (including Minnesota and Iowa). Nearly 1500 species are covered; a considerable portion of the 3000-3500 species native to this region.

Replacing an earlier Peterson version of "Eastern Moths" (Covell 1984), this book differs significantly in format and content. At a hefty 611 pages, 500 pages are dedicated to species accounts, with the text page opposite the plate page; about seven species are treated per page, on average. The full-colour opposing text-and-plates format is a significant improvement over the previous "Eastern Moths" version, which relied on separate sections in this respect. The text header consists of a common name (many coined here for the first time, particularly the micro-moths), scientific name, MONA catalog number (Hodges *et al.* 1983) and an indication of abundance. The main text indicates species size (either as total length or wingspan, in millimetres), and gives a brief description, sometimes with diagnostic characters relative to similar species. Larval hosts and geographic ranges (for those species without maps) are given. The adult flight time is illustrated by an easy-to-interpret phenogram, and a range map is given for nearly all macro-moth species (but not micro-moth species). The number of macro-moths treated is comparable to Covell (1984) with about 1100 species, but nearly twice as many micro-moths (~400 vs. ~230) are covered. For most macro-moth groups, coverage is very good; exceptions include some of the more difficult groups such as the pugs (*Eupithecia*), where only

eight of about 50 northeastern species are covered. I tested the macro-moth coverage by comparing a one-night catch from late May in eastern Ontario, and all but 12 of 144 species were illustrated.

The species accounts are generally concise, and the data critical for species identifications can be found at a glance. The juxtaposition of a phenogram and map is particularly nice, since it provides the "when and where" of a species occurrence, usually the first line of inquiry to separate similar species. The range maps were created based on plant distribution patterns and ecoregion boundaries, so in this sense represent variations on map templates rather than actual distributions of moth species—data for moth distributions are still surprisingly incomplete, so accurate range maps are difficult to generate for all but the most commonly collected species. The source data for the maps is perhaps not stressed enough in the introductory sections, as these can easily be misinterpreted by the reader as rather precise species ranges—"distribution pattern" rather than "range map" would be a better descriptor for the maps. Problems arise near the edges of supposed ranges; for example, *Raphia abrupta* does not extend as far north as Ohio or southern Ontario, *Acronicta ovata* occurs north into eastern Ontario, *Grammia williamsii* does not occur in southern Ontario, nor does *G. figurata* extend into eastern Ontario.

One of the weaker points of the text is the diagnostic section, as there is often no reference to most similar species and distinguishing features (this was addressed by highlighting such features in italics in the Covell version); consequently, Beadle and Leckie rely too heavily on the field-mark arrows accompanying the images, the utility of which vary considerably from species to species. For example, the most reliable diagnostic character separating the Alien Probole from Friendly Probole (the angle of the forewing antemedial line near the leading wing margin) is not mentioned, while the wing markings that *are* highlighted are unreliable because of their extreme variability. In some cases, "arrow overkill" makes it difficult to decipher just which features are important, as in the Oak Dagger (*Acronicta increta*) complex and the genus *Hydriomena*, difficult groups with few and subtle differences. At worst, the book gives a false sense of diagnostic certainty, where identification arrows indicate characters that are simply not diagnostic, as in the case of *Symmerista albifrons* / *S. canicosta* and *Hydriomena transfigurata* / *H. renunciata* / *H. divisata*, species groups where genitalic dissections are required for identification. Some of these problems could have been alleviated by referring to series of prepared, authoritatively determined specimens to assess variation, and to works such as Forbes (1923-1960) that deal with identification of difficult groups. To the authors' credit, some groups such as the Scalloped Metarranthis complex are not taken beyond a species-group level diagnosis. My only other critique of the text section is the host plant and abundance information; the latter is simply given as either "common" or "uncommon," and to divide all species into such broad

categories renders this information essentially useless. Both abundant pest species, such as *Noctua pronuba*, and specialized, locally distributed species (most *Papaipema*) are classified as common, as are many of the species that have declined or disappeared from much of the Northeast over the past few decades (e.g. many of the giant silk moths). Like most popular books on moths, the authors fell into the trap of simply repeating secondary literature citations of larval host plants, thus perpetuating erroneous records: a thorough cross-check with some of the recent high-quality publications on Lepidoptera larvae (e.g. Wagner 2005 and references therein) would have prevented these errors. For example, Wagner (2005) points out that the hosts for *Hypena sordidula* and *H. manalis* are wood nettle and false nettle respectively, not dandelion, alder and butternut. Host plant information is particularly relevant when one considers that absence of the right host plant usually precludes occurrence of a moth species.

This is the first book on North American moths to rely solely on photographs of live specimens. This format makes the guide particularly appealing to prospective moth enthusiasts, since it immediately makes this mega-diverse group of insects accessible without the equipment needed for collecting, preparing and storing specimens. Specimens are as they would appear in life, often displaying the characteristic postures and wing shapes sometimes lost in set specimens. The trade-off in illustrating live moths is that hindwings are concealed in most species, making identification considerably more difficult in groups where hindwing pattern is highly diagnostic—obvious examples include *Noctua*, *Cryptocala*, some of the *Catocala*, and *Sphinx*. Photographs are generally high-quality, and most species (except larger species such as silk moths and hawk moths) are reproduced larger than life-size, with one shadow silhouette per page at life size for scale. A few of the life-size silhouettes are too small, such as *Pyrrhia exprimens* and *Thysania zenobia*. This system of maintaining relative size among similar species works quite well, since differences in size often aid in identification. I much prefer this to having all species illustrated at the same size, with individual scale bars. Images are on a white or pastel background, colour coded to family. The pastel background works well for white moths, which are often difficult to reproduce with good colour rendition. Overall, colour rendition is very good, with a few exceptions like *Orthofidonia flavivenata* (too orange) and *Catocala lachrymosa* (too green). Having reviewed many of the Macro-moth identifications prior to publication, I could find no misidentifications except the right image of *Grammia williamsii*, which is *G. franconia*—perhaps I'm to blame!

Throughout the text and checklist sections, species are grouped according to family and further broken down into subordinate groups (subfamily or tribe) for the largest families. Although some small groups such as the Saturniidae are further divided into subfamilies, others such as Notodontidae are not. The inclusion of several small

erebid subfamilies into a single group ("Assorted Owlets") is understandable, but the grouping of multiple, unrelated micro-moth families is rather frustrating—families Tineidae with Acrolophidae; Lyonetiidae with Yponomeutidae; Glyphipterigidae with Plutellidae and Acrolepiidae; etc. These groupings leave the reader in the dark as to which family a species belongs to—for example, is *Swammerdamia* a lyonetiid or an yponomeutid? Minor glitches include the misspelling of Herminiinae throughout, and the omission of the family Attevidae for *Atteva*. The style of deriving common names from family-group taxa is also inconsistent, for example the use of "Archips Leafrollers" rather than "Archipine Leafrollers" for the tribe Archipini; "Cochylid Moths" rather than "Cochyline Leafrollers"; "Sparganothid Leafrollers" rather than "Sparganothine Leafrollers" – in contrast to "Olethreutine Moths" for "Olethreutine Leafrollers." The lack of standardized common names in North American moths will unfortunately continue to be problematic for those not comfortable with scientific names – many common names differ from those used in recent popular works such as Wagner (2005) and Wagner *et al* (2011). This also makes referencing more difficult, as the index lists common names and species by genera, but separate entries for species epithets are not provided—i.e., *Venusia cambrica* is indexed under "Venusia – cambrica" and "Wave - Welsh", but not under *cambrica*. This will invariably limit the utility of the index and the book as generic combinations change through taxonomic revisions. Lastly, the characteristic moth silhouettes given on the back pages to serve as an identification guide would have benefited from accompanying page numbers for easy reference.

A significant shortcoming of this otherwise impressive guide is an omission—no mention whatsoever is made of moth collecting and specimen preservation techniques, or references to literature for such. One of the great challenges facing entomologists today is the false perception that collecting insects is unnecessary or even harmful, and that entomology should 'progress' from a collection-based to an observation-based science, much like ornithology has over the past century. Without going into a lengthy discussion, moth populations, like other insects, are extremely resilient to collecting, and museum specimens are fundamental to taxonomic work, conservation, education, diagnostics, and as vouchers for molecular and morphological information – photographs can contribute little or nothing to these disciplines. Pohl (2011) gives an excellent overview for the importance of insect collecting (see also Schweitzer *et al.* 2011). Although the lack of basic knowledge for many Northeastern moth species is acknowledged in the introduction, the omission of collecting techniques, combined with a necessarily restricted coverage of difficult groups (especially micro-moths) where only genitalic dissections are diagnostic, give the reader a rather 'vertebrate-centric' impression that moths are well-known: so much so that all one needs is a camera and field guide. Certainly this will introduce more people to the study of and appreciation for moths, but taking the

extra step of providing an entry point into serious entomology would have improved the impact of this guide considerably.

This guide will likely become one of the top popular entomology books in North America—it is currently the top-selling Lepidoptera book on Amazon for good reason. The synergy of broad faunal coverage, accessibility to different skill levels and novel use of full-colour photos of live moths (many illustrated for the first time) opens the door to one of the most fascinating and diverse insect groups that we share our planet with. David Beadle and Seabrooke Leckie are to be commended for this unparalleled addition to the naturalists' book shelf.

B.C. Schmidt, 29.Aug.2012

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2012 Fall and Christmas Bird Counts

Ottawa-Gatineau Fall Bird Count

The annual Fall Bird Count will be held **Saturday October 20 to Sunday October 21, 2012**, beginning at 3:00 pm on the Saturday, and ending at 3:00 pm on the Sunday. The post-count compilation (free pizza, coffee, soft drinks and dessert for all participants!) will be held after the count on Sunday, at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre from approx. 4:30 – 8:00 pm. For more information, please contact birdcounts@ofnc.ca.

Ottawa-Gatineau Christmas Bird Count

This year's Ottawa-Gatineau CBC will be held on **Sunday December 16, 2012**. Details re: the post-count compilation and dinner will be provided to participants by the sector leaders, closer to the date of the event. For more information, please contact birdcounts@ofnc.ca.

Dunrobin-Breckenridge Christmas Bird Count

Another traditional local CBC, featuring more rural habitats than the Ottawa-Gatineau count, and not that far out of town! Please contact count coordinator Bruce Di Labio for details at 613-839-4395 or bruce.dilabio@sympatico.ca for this year's date and other information.

We encourage you to come out for these great traditional birding events in the Ottawa-Gatineau area! You don't need to be an "expert" birder to join in—even counting birds at your feeder from the comfort of your own home can be an important contribution. The more participants the better, to discover what's out there in our area during the fall and winter seasons!

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Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee.

For further information, check our website

www.ofnc.ca.

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.

ALL OUTINGS: *Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.*

REGISTERED BUS TRIPS: *Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (Payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to Box 35069, Westgate P.O., Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 1A2, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait until the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. In order for the Club to offer a bus trip, we need just over 33 people to register. If fewer than 30 register, we have the option of cancelling the trip or increasing the cost. Such decisions must be done a week in advance, so we encourage anyone who is interested in any bus trip to register as early as possible. We also wish to discourage postponing the actual payment of bus fees until the day of the event.*

EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE: *The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation, and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities. Attendees may have to pay \$5 parking per vehicle.*

BIRD STATUS LINE: *Phone 613-860-9000 to learn of recent sightings or birding potential in the Ottawa area. To report recent sightings use the 613-860-9000 number and stay on the line. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.*

KID FRIENDLY EXCURSIONS: *Kids are welcome on all of our trips. We have highlighted particular hikes as 'kid friendly' as these are most likely to be enjoyed by typical children. Of course, depending on your child's/children's interests and stamina feel free to bring them along on any events. For events tailored to kids, check out the Macoun Field Club (<http://www.ofnc.ca/macoun/index.php>).*

Wednesday
3 October
7:30 p.m.

**OTTAWA FORESTS AND GREENSPACE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (OFGAC)**

Speaker: Heather Hamilton, Chair

Location: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre.
Heather will introduce us to the workings of this volunteer city committee, how it operates, some recent successes, and continuing challenges in relation to preserving trees, natural areas and biodiversity in the city. She will also bring us up to date with the Emerald Ash Borer, how our Ottawa trees are faring and what we can do to protect them.

Tuesday
9 October
7:00 p.m.
**Social &
Club business**

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
LOONS AND ACID RAIN**

Speaker: Robert Alvo

Location: Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets, theatre in the basement.

7:30 p.m.
**Formal
program**

Learn about loon biology and how a 25-year study sought to find out how loons have been affected by lake acidification in Sudbury Ontario and beyond. Follow Rob as he takes you on some of the worst roads in Ontario, into some of the clearest lakes in Ontario, using one of the worst cars on the road. Try to guess what happened on an acidic lake to make a large loon chick die with a bulge in its throat that turned out to be made up of undigested fish, crayfish, dragonfly larvae, and whirligig beetles. Rob will talk about ideas for further research in the study area.

Saturday
20 October
3:00 p.m.
to
Sunday
21 October
3:00 p.m.

OTTAWA-GATINEAU FALL BIRD COUNT

The annual Fall Bird Count. The post-count compilation (free pizza, coffee, soft drinks and dessert for all participants!) will be held after the count on Sunday, at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre from approx. 4:30-8:00 p.m. For more information, and to register your participation in advance, please contact birdcounts@ofnc.ca.

Sunday
21 October
9:00 a.m.
to
about
5:00 p.m.

A TRIP THROUGH TIME - THE LAST BILLION YEARS IN OTTAWA

Leader: Jan Aylsworth (613-592-2805); coordinator Fenja Brodo (613-723-2054)

Meet: Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, near Pizza Pizza (or at Erskine Johnstone Public School Kanata—our first stop).

Few Canadian cities have as wide a variety of geology and as extensive a geological history as does Ottawa. At various times, our mountains have been as high as the Himalayas, our seas have been as warm as Australia's and as cold as the Arctic Ocean, earliest fossils have been preserved, major earth movements have ripped our rocks along great faults, and huge rivers have flowed over us. Visit these sites and understand the ground beneath your feet.

We will progress from west to east across Ottawa as we travel through time from oldest to youngest events. Pack a lunch to be enjoyed at Mer Bleue and we shall end at the Lemieux landslide, time permitting. Sturdy shoes would be best especially if it is wet.

Saturday
27 October
8:00 a.m.
to
1:00 p.m.

CRANBERRY CRAWL

Kid friendly

Leaders: Tyler Smith & Laurel McIvor

Meet: At Costco on Cyrville Road for carpooling. Park on the north side of the building facing Innes Rd. The Innes Rd. exit is just past the split on Highway 417 as you head towards Montreal. Alternatively, meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Mer Bleue Bog Trail Parking Lot at the east end of Ridge Rd.

Join Tyler and Laurel for a hands-on hike to explore the Mer Bleue Bog and learn more about wild cranberries and their natural habitat. Following this hike, we will carpool to the Upper Canada Cranberry Farm to discover more about local cranberry cultivation, harvesting and processing. Bring your lunch and lawn chairs or blankets—there will be special prizes for creative lunches featuring cranberries!

Sunday
28 October
7:30 a.m.
to
12:00 noon

WATER BIRDS (WATERFOWL, LOONS, GREBES, GULLS, AND... WHO KNOWS?)

Leader: Mark Gawn & Bernie Ladouceur

Meet: At Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre near the Assaly entrance off Richmond Road, behind Walmart, beside the Pizza Pizza. Late October offers some of the most dynamic birding of the year, depending on the weather there can be large numbers of waterfowl moving along the river, or virtually nothing at all! Last October featured Razorbill, Gannet and Western Grebe, among others; what will this Fall bring?

This excursion will focus on prime sites along Lac Deschênes and perhaps inland, depending on current conditions. This trip will go rain or shine, dress according to the weather. Blustery cold days can produce the best birds! Bring binoculars and a spotting scope, if you have one.

Sunday
4 November
9:15 a.m.
to
2:00 p.m.

EXPLORING MACSKIMMING OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Leader: Kevin Wallace and Robert Alvo

Meet: The LCBO at King Edward and Rideau (north end of parking lot) to carpool to MacSkimming, located at Pioneer Village Field Centre (3700 Wilhaven Drive). Otherwise, meet at MacSkimming at 10:00 a.m.

MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre, on the way to Montreal via Hwy. 17 past Orleans, is inviting the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club members to learn about and explore this unique 425-acre outdoor classroom belonging to the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. The site is diverse, including a marsh by the Ottawa River, agricultural fields in series of successional stages, red maple swamps and mature mixed-forest. Kevin Wallace, the Centre's Coordinator, will introduce us to the site and explain their activities, and then we will explore the property. Bring a lunch, your curiosity and dress appropriately for the weather. If it rains, we will still go, but we'll stay indoors and shorten the visit to return to the LCBO by around noon. For more information, visit the MacSkimming website: www.ocdsboutdooreducationcentres.ca.

Please Note: Daylight savings ends on 4 November, so please turn back your clocks the day before so you do not arrive an hour earlier!

Saturday
10 November
10:00 a.m.
to
2:00 p.m.

**LATE AUTUMN BOTANY AND HARD MUSHROOMS
(POLYPORES)**

Leader: Dr. Sergei Ponomarenko; coordinator Robert Alvo
Meet: Parking lot at the entrance to the water filtration plant on Cassels Road and Britannia Conservation Area (Mud Lake). Sergei Ponomarenko is a forest ecologist working for Parks Canada. Join him at the Britannia Conservation Area, which has a good variety of tree species and other plants despite its small size, as well as hard mushrooms (Polypores). We will be learning how to identify trees and other plants in late autumn, when most of the leaves have fallen to the ground. Bark and tree shape are particularly important for identifying trees at this time of year and during winter. Other plants and hard mushrooms may be accessible depending on the snow cover. Bring field guides if you have them. This excursion will go ahead despite the weather, so please dress accordingly for walking on forest trails. You will not be more than a 15-minute walk back to your car.

Tuesday
13 November
7:00 p.m.
Social &
Club business

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
KIRTLAND'S WARBLER MONITORING AND
RECOVERY**

Speaker: Tammy Richard, Wildlife and Species at Risk Biologist, Department of National Defence, CFB Petawawa
Location: Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets, theatre in the basement.

7:30 p.m.
Formal
program

Come and hear an encouraging story about one of the world's rarest songbirds. The Kirtland's Warbler was rediscovered at CFB Petawawa in 2006, and for the first time ever, the species was documented nesting in Canada. Tammy Richard has been overseeing Kirtland's Warbler surveys, monitoring and recovery efforts at CFB Petawawa since 2006. Tammy will bring us an update on seven years of survey, monitoring, and recovery efforts for the Kirtland's Warbler on the military Base.

Saturday
17 November
10:00 a.m.
to
1:30 p.m.

CONSTANCE BAY WALK AND MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION

Leaders: Nancy Young, Jeff Skevington, and Dan Brunton.
Coordinators: Hume Douglas and Holly Bickerton.

Meet: 9:30 a.m. Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, near Pizza Pizza; or at our final destination, Constance Bay Community Centre at 10:00 a.m. (262 Len Purcell Drive, Woodlawn, Ontario).

Join Ottawa City Forester Nancy Young and OFNC Naturalists for a walk and discussion at the biologically important Constance Bay sand hills. Learn about the regionally unique terrestrial habitats and the natural and human forces that shape them. A discussion will follow about managing this rare ecosystem within a populated area, and how OFNC can work with the City of Ottawa toward conservation goals. Pack a snack and dress for the weather; there is no rain date (a back-up indoor venue may be available though). Children are always welcome, but this outing may involve more than the usual share of standing and talking. For information about the sandhills, see *T&L* 44(3):123-128.

Sunday
18 November
7:00 p.m.

GLIMPSES OF WILDLIFE - A COLLECTION OF SHORT VIDEOS

Presenter: Jeewa Mendis.

Location: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre.

Jeewa has captured precious moments of wildlife on her video camera. These include activities in air, on land and in water, of various birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. Come see what can be accomplished with much patience and skill.

Sunday
2 December
1:00 p.m.
to
4:00 p.m.

INSECT WORKSHOP

Leader: Fenja Brodo (613-723-2054).

Location: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre.

This will be an introduction to basic entomology with the focus on distinguishing the main orders of insects (Orthoptera, Ephemeroptera, Diptera, Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, etc.). Microscopes, books, keys and real specimens will help participants see and appreciate the beauty and the intricacy of insect structures that set the different groups apart. We need to limit this workshop to 12 people so please register with Fenja if you plan to attend.

**Saturday,
8 December
7:30 a.m.
to
7:00 p.m.**

AMHERST ISLAND—OWLS AND MORE

Leader: Justin Peter: *jbpetr@yahoo.ca*; 613-858-3744.

Meet: Depart Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre at 7:30 a.m. sharp
Return to Ottawa at approximately 7:00 p.m. We hope to arrange
carpooling from Lincoln Fields. Please be prepared to make a
contribution to the drivers for gas.

This is a full-day excursion during which we will explore
Amherst Island (near Kingston), which can be a winter-time
haven for owls. Depending on the conditions, we might observe
various species including Northern Saw-whet Owl, Snowy Owl,
Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl and Barred Owl. We will also
look for hawks, eagles, waterfowl, and anything else of interest.
We will use the ferry crossing at Millhaven (departures to
Amherst Island 30 minutes past the hour) and plan to catch the
10:30 ferry. We plan to leave Amherst Island on the 4 p.m. or 5
p.m. ferry. The round-trip cost for ferry service at time of
printing is \$9 per car.

There will be some walking over mainly level terrain. Wear
warm, layered winter clothing and winter boots suitable for
walking in snow. Bring a packable lunch, snacks, and
thermos(es) with hot beverages. This trip will not proceed in
case of sustained heavy rain, freezing rain or snow storm
conditions that lead to adverse driving conditions. If in doubt,
contact the trip leader.

**Tuesday
11 December
7:00 p.m.
Social &
Club Business

7:30 p.m.
Formal
Program**

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING

**CAMOUFLAGE, MIMICRY AND BIOMIMICRY: LIFE
IMITATING LIFE**

Speaker: Dr. Barrie Frost.

Location: Canadian Museum of Nature (VMMB), Metcalfe and
McLeod Streets, in the basement theatre.

In this talk, Barrie will present images that illustrate the
sometimes stunning patterns that animals have evolved to blend
with their background and thus ensure that they will not be easily
seen by predators. Next we will see some examples of both
Batesian and Müllerian mimicry where certain species have
evolved to resemble other species, which in turn confers some
advantage to the mimic. Finally Barrie will present a few
examples where human engineers have copied either design or
process from nature (biomimicry) based on the idea that
evolution very often results in efficient and optimal processing in
a sustainable way.

Sunday
16 December

OTTAWA-GATINEAU CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Whether you are a novice or experienced birder this annual birding event promises to be fun. The post-count compilation and dinner will be provided to participants by the sector leaders, but further details will be available closer to the date. For more information, please contact *birdcounts@ofnc.ca*.

Saturday
5 January

**The 35th ANNUAL DUNROBIN-BRECKENRIDGE
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT,**

Another traditional local CBC, featuring more rural habitats than the Ottawa-Gatineau count, and not that far out of town! Please contact count coordinator Bruce Di Labio for details at 613-839-4395 or *bruce.dilabio@sympatico.ca* for this year's date and other information.

Saturday
12 January
1:00 p.m.
to
4:00 p.m.

**CANADIAN NATIONAL COLLECTION OF INSECTS,
ARACHNIDS AND NEMATODES (CNC) VISIT**

Especially Kid friendly

Leaders: Owen Lonsdale and Jeff Skevington.

Meet: At the entrance to the Neatby Building (960 Carling Avenue). Park in the gravel lot NE of the entrance and get a parking pass from the security guard inside Neatby. Please be prompt. We need to meet in the lobby and sign you in through security. Latecomers may not easily be able to join the group. Come and explore the CNC with Owen and Jeff. With over 17 million pinned insects, our collection is one of the largest and most diverse in the world. Hundreds of scientists world-wide use the collection as a basis for their research and 32 Canadian scientists work in the collection facility. Our collection offers insights into insect taxonomy and phylogenetics and is an important source of data to understand historical changes in global insect populations. Understanding invasive and native pests as well as beneficial and benign species all revolves around this huge scientific resource. During your visit we will hopefully give you some insights into the research that we do while showing you some of the spectacular animals in our collection.

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DEADLINE: Material intended for the January - March issue must be in the editor's hands by 1 November, 2012. Mail your manuscripts to:

Karen McLachlan Hamilton

2980 Moodie Drive, Nepean, ON, K2J 4S7

H: (613) 838-4943; email: hamilton@storm.ca

ANY ARTICLES FOR TRAIL & LANDSCAPE?

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations?

Write up your thoughts and send them to *Trail & Landscape*.

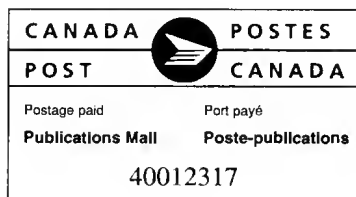
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